REMARKS

SUMMARY

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 remain pending. Claim 6 is amended to correct a typographical error.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

CLAIMS 1-23

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,907,324 issued to Larson et al. ("Larson"). Anticipation under § 102 requires that all elements of a claim be taught by the prior art. Because Larson fails to teach all elements of claims 1-23, Applicants submit that they are patentable over Larson.

Claim 1 recites a method of operation, to be performed on a computing device, the computing device being a selected one of an inviter computing device and a non-inviter service providing computing device, the method comprising:

> receiving a request to extend an invitation to a recipient computing device to join an inviter computing device to jointly consume a content online; determining whether the inviter computing device is eligible to extend the invitation; and
>
> extending the invitation to the recipient computing device, if it is determined that the inviter computing device is eligible to extend the invitation to the recipient computing device.

Larson describes a desktop conference system for centralized management of online conferences. Examiner cites Larson col. 9, lines 48-57 as teaching "determining whether the inviter computing device is eligible to extend the invitation." This text reveals that the conference manager allows a user to control a conference, including inviting and ejecting participants. Thus the user of the Larson conference manager may invite any users he or she would like and may alternatively limit the number of participants in a conference. Therefore, the user is in control and eligible to extend as many invitations as desired. Thus, there is no reason to infer that the conference manager of Larson determines whether an "inviter computing device is eligible to extend the invitation" as required by claim 1.

Thus, Larson fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Larson. Additionally, claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 incorporating its limitations. Independent claim 11 contains in substance the same limitations as claim 1. Also, independent claim 12 contains in substance the same limitation as claim 1 and claims 13-23 depend from claim 12, incorporating its limitations. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claims 2-23 are also patentable over Larson.

CLAIM 2

Notwithstanding the above, Applicants submit the following remarks in support of claim 2. Claim 2 recites the method of claim 1 "wherein the determining comprises determining whether the inviter computing device has reached an invitation limit." The rejection of this claim cites Larson col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 3, and col. 7 lines 17-20. These sections of Larson reveal that a user of the Larson system may specify a maximum number of participants. Larson therefore teaches a participation limit. But Larson does not prohibit the user from inviting more users than may participate. Thus, no invitation limit is taught by Larson as required by claim 2. Larson therefore fails to teach all elements of claim 2 and accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable over Larson.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1542. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
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